

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the treatment of glomerulonephritis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising introducing an antibody that binds to complement component C5 into the patient's bloodstream in an amount effective to substantially reduce the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the antibody reduces the conversion of complement component C5 into complement components C5a and C5b.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the antibody binds to C5b.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the antibody does not substantially inhibit formation of complement component C3b.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the antibody is introduced into the patient's bloodstream in a dose that is not greater than 0.1 grams per kilogram.

6. An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical agent contained within said packaging material, wherein:

(a) said pharmaceutical agent comprises an antibody to complement component C5, said antibody being effective in substantially reducing the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood; and

(b) said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of kidney disease.

7. The article of manufacture of Claim 6 wherein the label indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of nephritis.

8. The article of manufacture of Claim 7 wherein the label indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of glomerulonephritis.

9. The article of manufacture of Claim 6 wherein the pharmaceutical agent is to be used at a dosage level not greater than 0.1 grams per kilogram.